

Message Text

PAGE 01 THE HA 03736 251119Z

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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S E C R E T THE HAGUE 3736

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: DUTCH REPORT ON COMMUNIST COUP D'ETAT ATTEMPT IN PORTUGAL

1. FOLLOWING IS REPORTED ON THE CHANCE THAT IT MAY CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING OF USE TO DEPARTMENT'S INTELLIGENCE RE CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL.

2. DURING CHARGE'S JULY 24 MEETING WITH FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR RUTTEN ON OTHER BUSINESS, HE VOLUNTEERED INFORMATION ON A DISCRETIONARY BASIS RE PLAN BY PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY TO CARRY OUT COUP D'ETAT IN NEXT FEW DAYS. INFORMATION WAS REPORTED BY NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR IN LISBON WHO HAD IT FROM A PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY SOURCE. COUP D'ETAT WAS BEING PLANNED AND ORGANIZED BY COMMUNIST PARTY AND WOULD BE CARRIED OUT WITH NECESSARY SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE FROM ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. RESULTING NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD DISSOLVE SOCIALIST AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE DICTATORSHIP, WHATEVER IT CALLED ITSELF. SOCIALIST PARTY WOULD GO UNDERGROUND AND TRY TO ORGANIZE NATIONAL RESISTANCE.

3. INFORMATION MADE AVAILABLE TO NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR INCLUDED AN APPEAL TO GON (WHICH SOURCE SAID WAS ALSO BEING MADE TO UK) TO UNDERTAKE A PROMPT DEMARCHE TO THE SOVIET SECRET

PAGE 02 THE HA 03736 251119Z

UNION TO STOP INTERFERING IN PORTUGUESE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. IF COUP D'ETAT WERE SUCCESSFUL GON WAS ASKED TO ABSTAIN FROM PARTICIPATION IN HELSINKI SUMMIT ON GROUND THAT SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN PORTUGAL HAD VIOLATED THE CSCE SPIRIT.

4. RUTTEN'S PERSONAL REACTION TO THE FIRST POINT OF THE APPEAL WAS THAT ANY DEMARCHE TO THE SOVIET UNION WOULD BE A TOTAL NON-STARTER, AND HE REFERRED TO THE FRG'S RECENT FUTILE ATTEMPT TO TALK TO THE SOVIETS ABOUT PORTUGAL. RUTTEN WAS ALSO DUBIOUS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD AT THIS LATE STAGE DECIDE TO STAY AWAY FROM HELSINKI EVEN IF UNHAPPILY A COMMUNIST-INSPIRED COUP D'ETAT SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT. THE GON WOULD PROFOUNDLY REGRET AND DEPLORE SUCH A DEVELOPMENT BUT RUTTEN THOUGHT THAT ANY MORE CONCRETE REACTION WOULD DEPEND ON WHAT HAD TAKEN PLACE IN LISBON AND HOW.

5. RUTTEN ADDED THAT NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR WAS TO CONSULT WITH HIS BRITISH COLLEAGUE IN LISBON AND RUTTEN SAID HE WOULD INFORM US OF THIS CONTACT. HE, IN TURN, ASKED EMBASSY TO PASS ON WHATEVER INFORMATION WE COULD MAKE AVAILABLE RE PLANS FOR A COMMUNIST COUP D'ETAT.
TANGUY

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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